

# The Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens

The Therfield Regulation Trust  
c/o Royston Golf Club, Baldock Rd, Royston, SG8 5BG  
Registered Charity No. 277881  
Chair: Clare Swarbrick

Clerk: Carol Fossick  
Email:clerk@therfieldheath.org.uk

## Summary Minutes for Website relating to Meeting held Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 via Zoom

**In attendance :** Clare Swarbrick (CSW), Ben Harrop (BH), Clive Hall (CH), Colin Smith (CS), John King (JK), Neil Guttridge (NG), Robert Law (RL) and also for part of meeting Vincent Thompson (VT), Carol Fossick (CF) as clerk

**1.09/20 Apologies for Absence**  
None given.

**2.09/20 Declarations of interest**  
None given but it was noted that the Clerk's husband was part of the Friends of Thefield Health (FOTH) group.

**3.09/20 Approve the minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020**  
Small typo corrected - then approved.

**4.09/20 Matters arising not covered in the agenda**  
CH raised the correction of Common Land Boundary but would discuss this as AOB.

**5.09/20 Heath and Greens Maintenance (VT in attendance)**

i. Lankaster, Sun Hill and the Gallops

VT confirmed cut and collect has occurred. Work needed to clear scrub which prevented some land being cut.

ii. Ragwort problem on Two Hills and the Rifle Range

Requires the help of volunteers but there are COVID restrictions etc which make this harder to organise.

iii. Chalk tracks

Awaiting results of contact to try to obtain material and machine power – agreement that it needed to be done but it was a big job to be done in stages.

iv. Tor Grass (near 15th)

VT advised need to make sure that consent for March 2021 work is obtained in Jan 2021.

v. Ash dieback on Ted Darling's Land

No Health and Safety issues with trees affected.

vi. Bird Signs taken down?

Still up – VT may remove sign but leave posts in situ.

vii. Comments on draft sign for Church Hill

No comments made to date. Now needs to be shared with others involved in funding.

viii. Boundary Trees (including felling of dead tree behind 7th green, near 8th tee)

2 x limes were to be done. Others to be cut and left as insect habitats. 2 x poplars (located at entrance to heath entrance) were 1944 PoW plantations and now roots are causing problems under tennis court. Investigation needed by Tennis Club

ix. Update on scarifier for land previously grazed.

Conservators will assess cost of purchase versus hire cost. Discussion on use throughout the year and need information on proposed machine.

## 6.09/20 Major items to AGREE

- i. Management Plan**  
Natural England very helpful regarding advice on applying for Green Recovery Fund. Management plans - backed up by independent evidence – will be needed going forward. A site plan - to identify comprehensively/clearly the key tasks/frequency and priority – can be drawn up as a crib sheet for Conservators who may not have specialised knowledge in this area.
- ii. SSSI mitigation strategy**  
No progress to report here as yet.
- iii. Green Recovery Fund**  
Preliminary application/registration made. Friday 2 October is deadline for other information to be filed.
- iv. Natural England**  
Conservators seeking clarity on the classification of the Therfield Heath Trust and the extent of its ability to give permission as opposed to the requirement to seek permission. Current system historically has confused Heath users and our key contact at Natural England would be out of the office so the issue was coming to the forefront. JAC members may be helped if they understood better the current process and timeframes.
- v. Golf Club signage**  
Details sent out as pre-reading regarding wording revisions. New signs aim to highlight the gold ball danger to the public and better sign positioning is supported. Golf Club can be told of the Conservators' preference on sign word/font/position.
- vi. Litter**  
Heath café took initiative to offer a free coffee per bag of litter collected. Moment now to grow this. Friends of Therfield Heath may be able to support this. Some bins had snagging issues which Conservators have noted to action.
- vii. Local Nature Reserve and the local plan**  
Local Nature Reserve designation has ceased to exist. When the SSSI designation was given that was the material classification. Conservators assessing next steps.
- viii. Sun Hill Common / Assets of Community Value**  
Great achievement for residents with super press coverage.
- ix. Hay Green**  
“The Rookery” : discussion of potential land exchange if supported by Parish Council and local residents. Landowner must take the lead and pay costs. In terms of new entry/exit driveway on the Grange landowner needs to action this (s38 consent and Highways consent etc) but any former agreement in lieu of costs will be honoured.
- x. Pesticides**  
Seeking Natural England's written explanation of decision-making process here.
- xi. Stake Piece Road**  
Historical matters to be located and collated.

- 7.03/21 **Finance**  
Information provided.
- 8.09/20 **New Events/Permissions**  
No new Events notified.  
Cadets seeking to use heath and have independently approached NE for permission resulting in crossed emails. Next Event (if running) : The Friends of Therfield Heath Bear Hunt on 4<sup>th</sup> October.
- 9.09/20 **Any other business**  
Mr C. Hall in a personal capacity has been investigating the boundary of the Common's Land following the 1976 construction of the western A505 additional lane. Mr Hall has now been permitted to proceed with his application regarding a correction of the common land boundary. Relevant papers are being sent to interested/affected local bodies etc.  
Archery Club's containers require planning permission and section 38 consent and Conservators can explain process required.
- 11.09/20 **Date of next meeting** Thursday 22 October 2020 7pm-9pm (TBC by Zoom).
- Meeting ended 21:10